(c) The proposal is under active consideration of the Government.

Damage to Government property during Bihar Bandh

394. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government property was extensively damaged during the August, 1998 Bihar Bandh in protest against the raids by CBI on Chief Minister's residence and that Government have sought a detailed report in the matter;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI: (a) to (c) According to available information, Government properties, particularly those of the Railways and Post & Telegraph Department, were damaged during the Bihar Bandh in August, 1998. The Accountant General's office at Patna was also attacked. The Central Government strongly disapproves of such acts by the agitators.

Conversion of LOC into International Border

395. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir declared that conversion of Line of Control into an international border will solve Kashmir crisis; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Government are aware of certain reports in the Media about such statements, purportedly made by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. The position of the Government is that the whole of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, including the area under illegal occupation of Pakistan, and portions of the State illegally ceded by Pakistan, is an integral part of India. Resolutions were passed by both the Houses of Parliament in this regard on 22nd February, 1994 and Government remains committed to them.

Deteriorating Law and Order situation in Delhi

396. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the law and order situation in the Capital has deteriorated due to which the crime rate has not in the past few months;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Delhi Police has totally failed to check crime in the Capital and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to pull the Delhi Police so that the crimes in the Capital could be checked?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The crime rate has declined from 634 crimes per lakh of population in 1996 to 560.5 crimes in 1998.

(d) The steps taken to improve the law and order situation, *inter-alia*, include intensification of patrolling especially from 6 P.M. to 10 P.M.; surveillance over the activities of known criminals; improved intelligence gathering; raids over the places of ill repute and suspected hidecuts of criminals; high visibility of police in the vulnerable areas; and construction of a regional coordination group comprising police officers of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan to exchange information about the criminals.